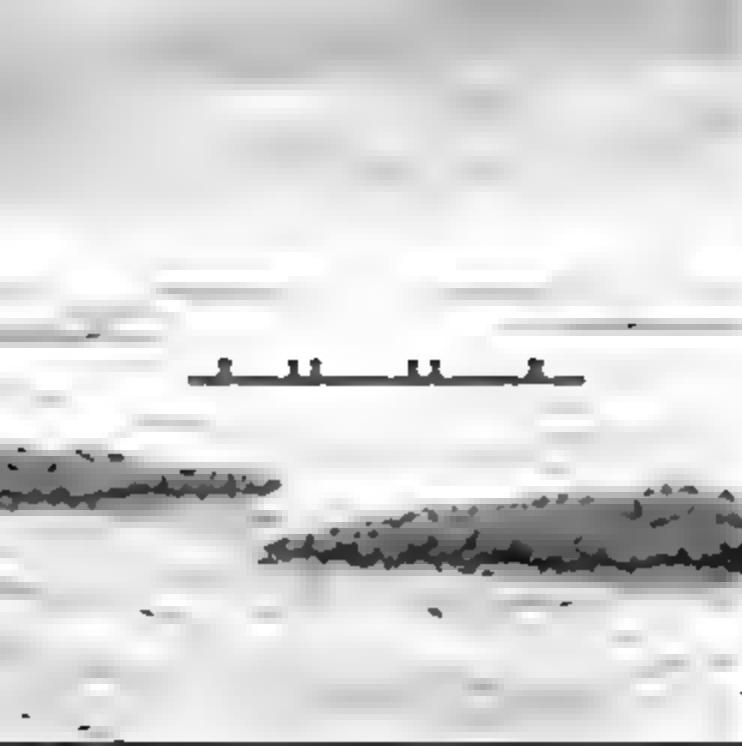


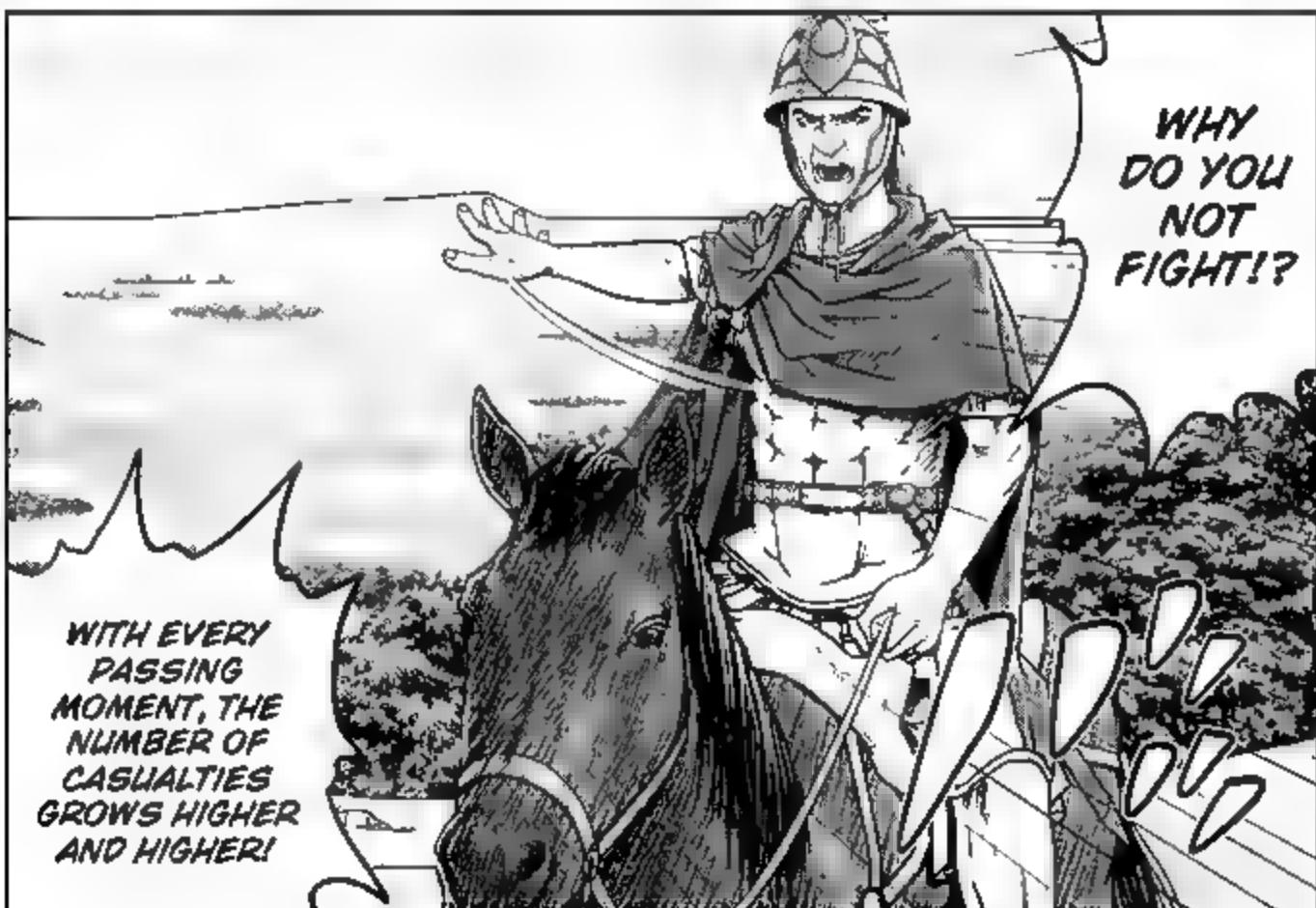
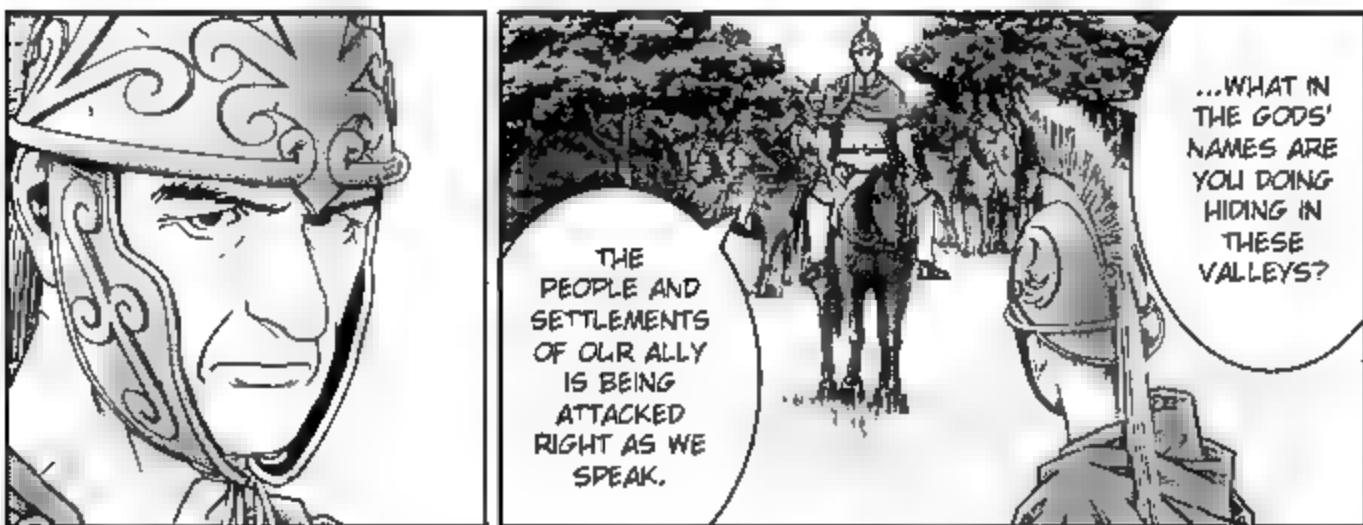
THE NORTHERN  
CAMPANIAN PLAINS  
ROMAN LEGION CAMP

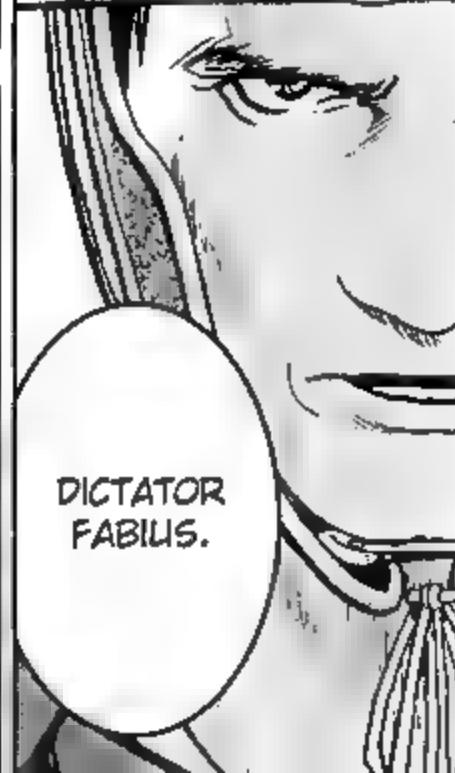
THE  
CITY OF  
SINLESSA  
BY THE  
COAST  
HAS ALSO  
FALLEN.

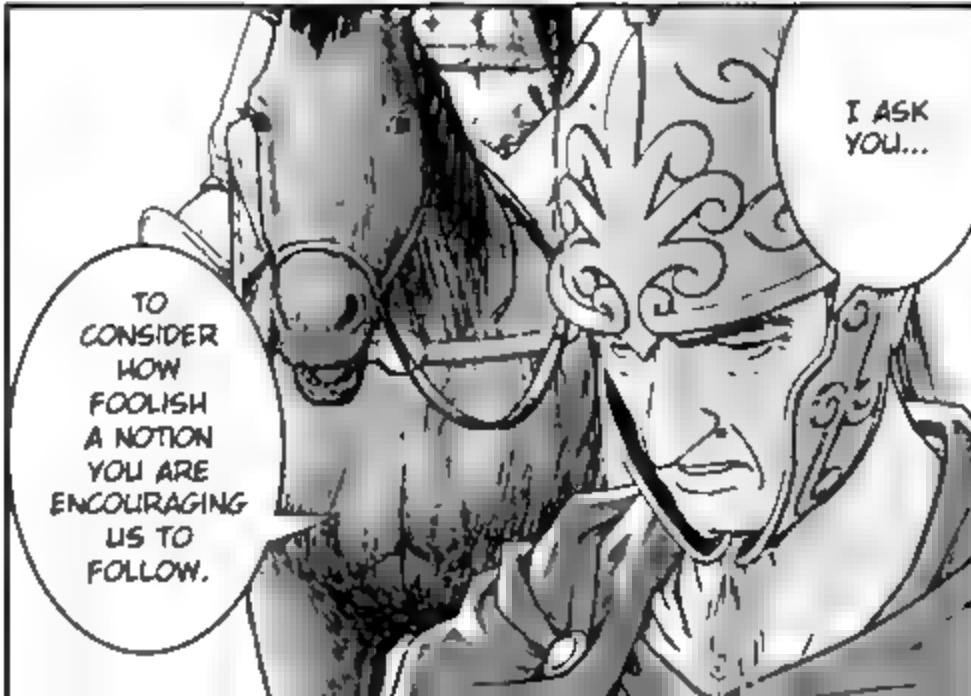
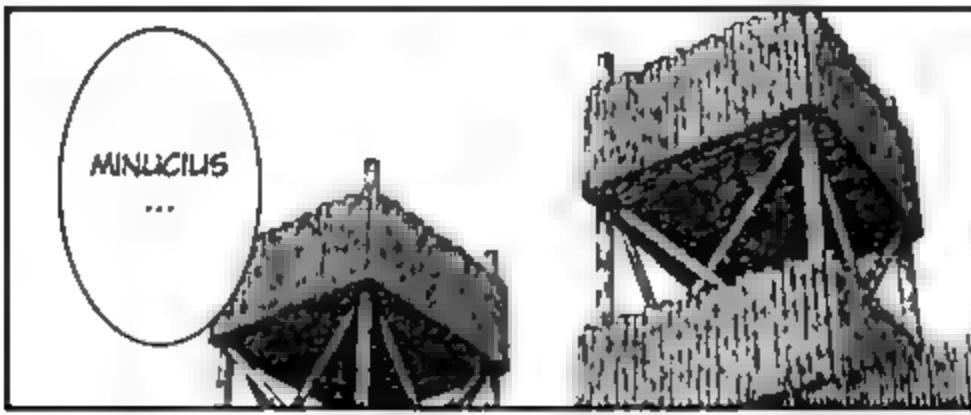
ENEMY  
CAVALRY  
HAVE  
CONTINUED  
TO LAUNCH  
RAIDS AT  
NEARBY  
SETTLE-  
MENTS.





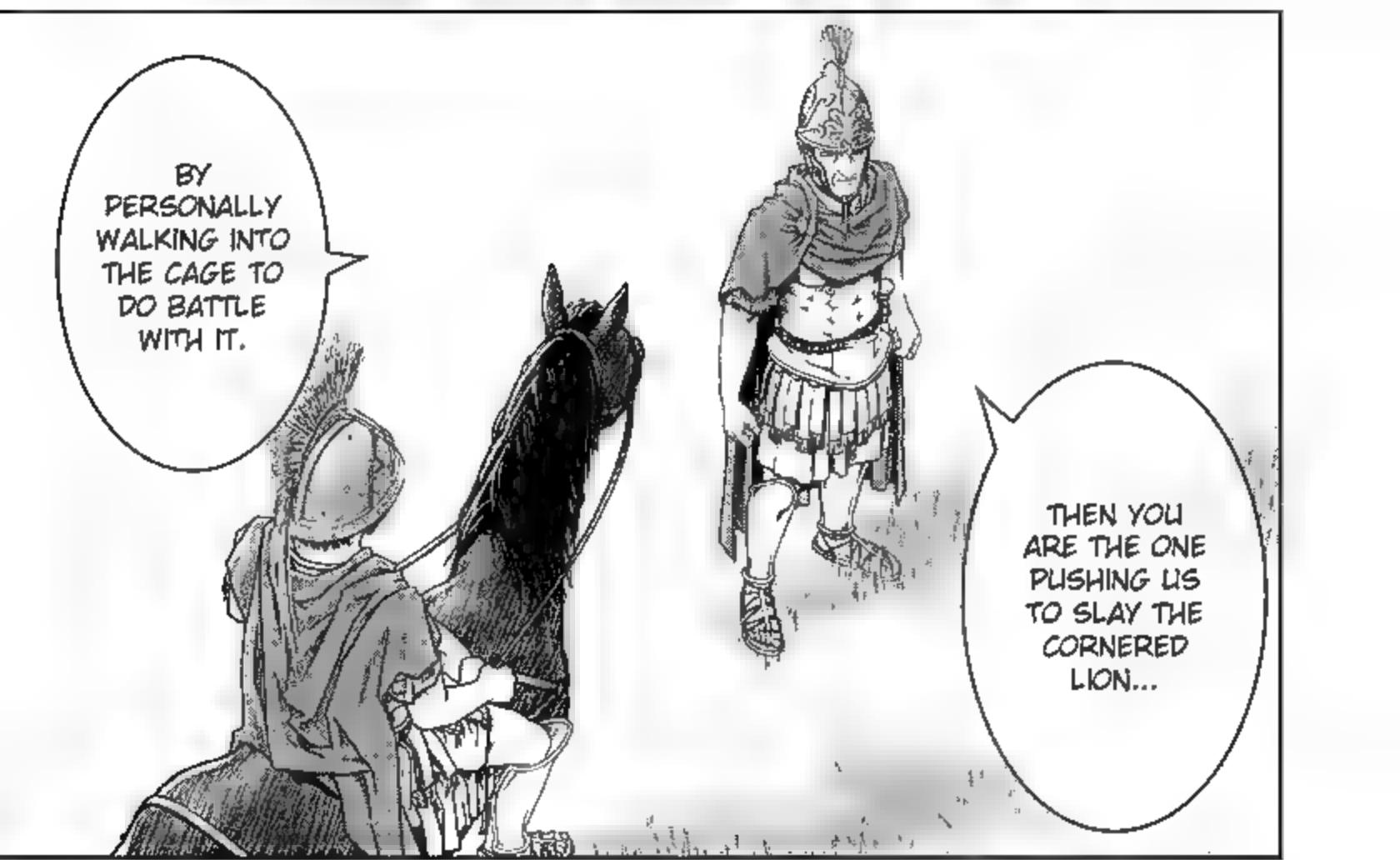








IF HANNIBAL  
IS A LION  
THAT WE HAVE  
PAINSTAKINGLY  
BAITED INTO  
TRAPPING  
ITSELF INSIDE  
A CAGE,



BY  
PERSONALLY  
WALKING INTO  
THE CAGE TO  
DO BATTLE  
WITH IT.

THEN YOU  
ARE THE ONE  
PUSHING US  
TO SLAY THE  
CORNED  
LION...



HE'S  
NOTHING  
MORE THAN  
A SLIPPERY,  
BUT CLEVER,  
LITTLE RAT.

HANNIBAL  
IS NO  
LION.



...DON'T  
MAKE ME  
LAUGH.



TO SQUIRM  
HIS WAY OUT  
OF THIS GREAT  
CAMPANIAN  
PRISON  
ENTIRELY.

“  
DADDY DAY  
MAY TAKE  
THIS  
CHANCE...

AS Y.U.  
SIT ON YOUR  
ARSE IN FEAR  
OF THIS  
SO CALLED  
MIGHTY LION.



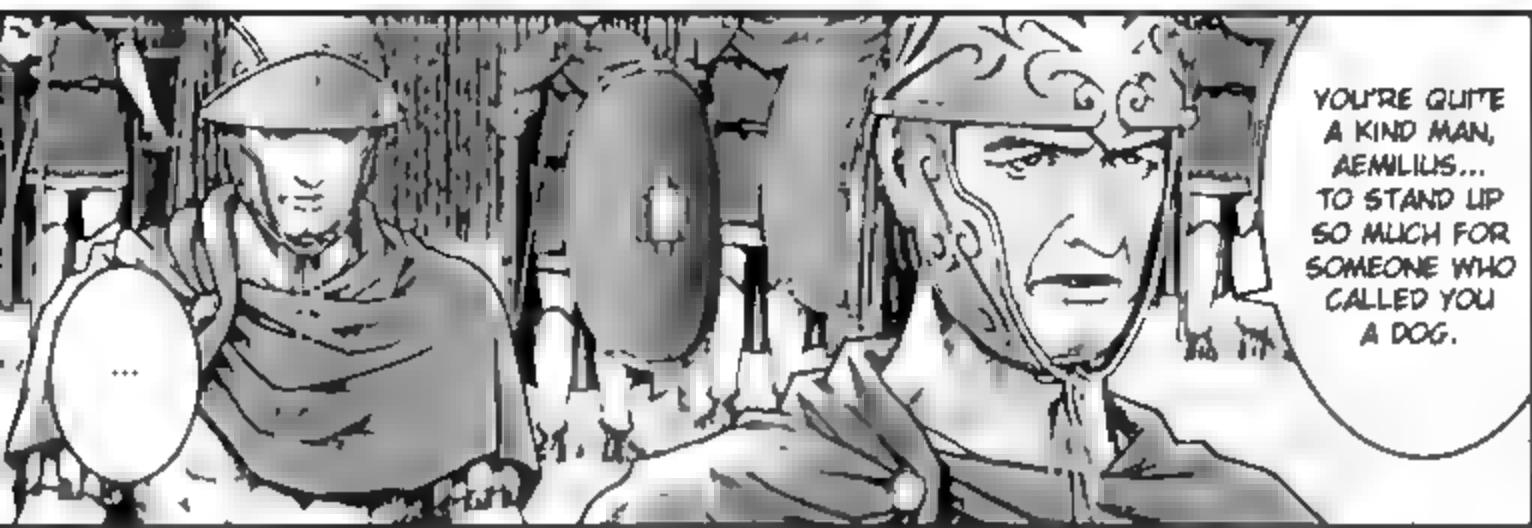


I AM CERTAIN THAT HIS ACTIONS TO UNDERMINE YOU DO NOT STEM FROM PERSONAL GREED OR AMBITION.

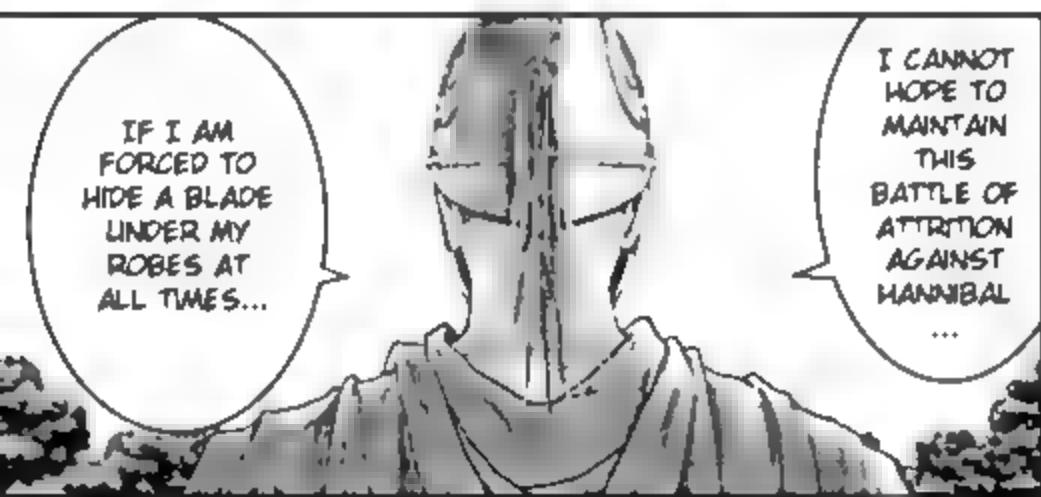


HE MAY SEEM LIKE A FOOLISH AND RECKLESS MAN, BUT HE IS SIMPLY A MAN WITH OLD FASHIONED NOTIONS OF WAR.

HE IS IRRITATED THAT HE HAS NOT BEEN GIVEN THE CHANCE TO WIELD THE SWORD THAT HE PUTS SO MUCH OF HIS TRUST IN.



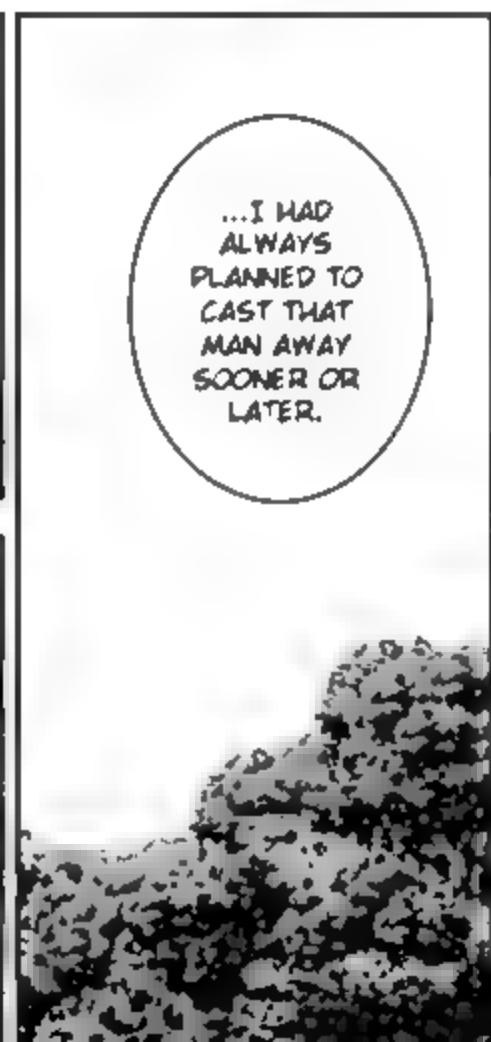
YOU'RE QUITE A KIND MAN, AEMILIUS... TO STAND UP SO MUCH FOR SOMEONE WHO CALLED YOU A DOG.

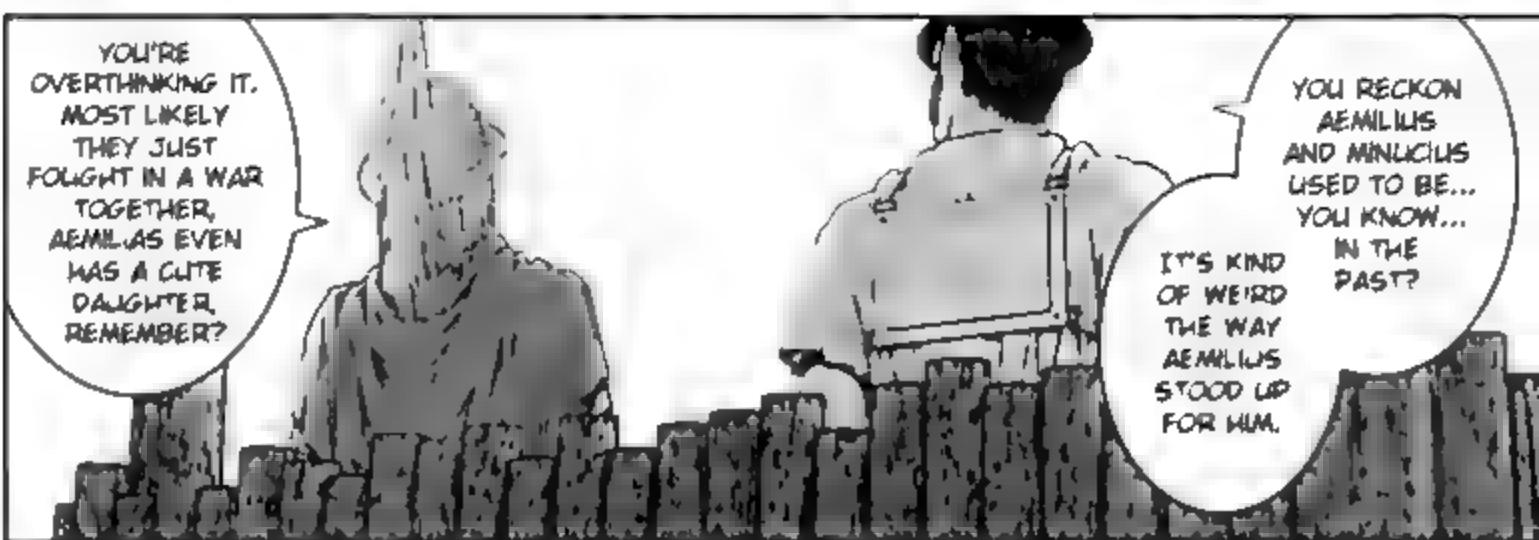


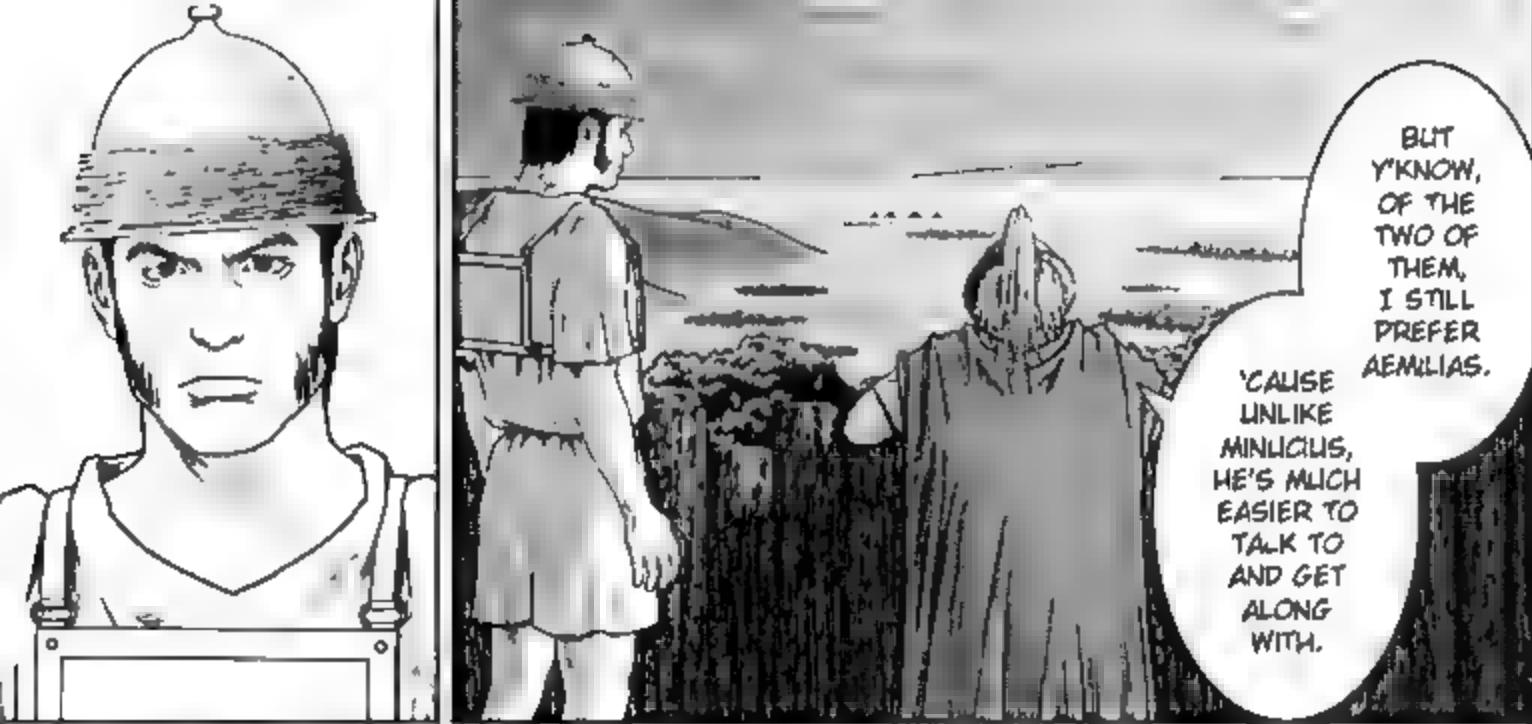
IF I AM FORCED TO HIDE A BLADE UNDER MY ROBES AT ALL TIMES...

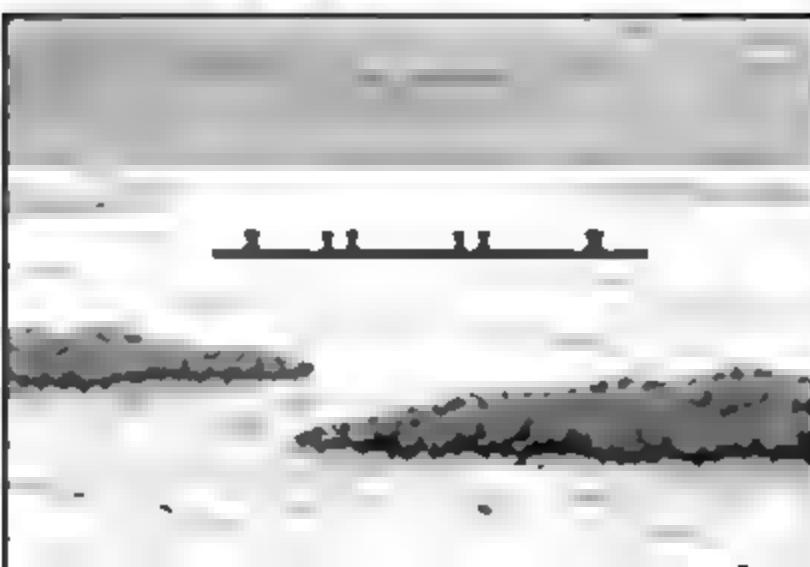
I CANNOT HOPE TO MAINTAIN THIS BATTLE OF ATTRITION AGAINST HANNIBAL

...I HAD ALWAYS PLANNED TO CAST THAT MAN AWAY SOONER OR LATER.









THIS PLAN OF FABIUS' MIGHT HAVE BEEN JUST THE COUNTER WE NEEDED AGAINST HANNIBAL...

.. I DON'T REALLY WANT TO ADMIT IT BUT...

AND YET, HANNIBAL HAS CHOSEN TO SIMPLY DIG IN FOR WINTER?

IT WAS PROBABLY A LAST DITCH STRATEGY HE CAME UP WITH TO BUY TIME UNTIL HE COULD THINK OF SOMETHING BETTER.

.. DON'T YOU THINK THAT'S A BIT UNLIKE HIM CONSIDERING ALL HE'S DONE SO FAR?

IN THE END, IT STILL DOESN'T CHANGE THE FACT THAT WE'RE PROBABLY NOT GOING TO BE SEEING ANY COMBAT FOR A LONG, LONG TIME.

WELL, NO USE THINKING TOO MUCH ABOUT IT SCIPIO.







